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June 13, 2007

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Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 07-52

Dear FCC Chairman and Commissioners:

The Dominican American National Roundtable (DANR) is a non-profit and non-partisan organization established in 1997, whose mission is advocates for the empowerment of Dominicans in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Territories. The DANR is based in Washington, DC with memberships and partnerships that spread across more than thirty states in America and the U.S. territories. It is the first and only organization in the United States that advocates at the national level on behalf of the nearly two million Dominican American residents in areas concerning education, health, economic development, immigration, and civic empowerment.

In carrying out our mission, we have found that Internet access is an essential tool for securing our constituents' access to resources in their communities. Affordable and accessible internet services are critical to ensuring that Dominican citizens are civically engaged and empowered. Therefore, one of our goals is increased broadband capacity and universal deployment of this technology.

We are therefore delighted to respond to the FCC's Notice of Inquiry and offer our thoughts on broadband in the United States.

We believe the highest priority is identifying strategies that will spread deployment, especially to communities, including the people represented by DANR, who are currently underserved. As a first step toward expanding broadband availability, we urge policies that will encourage the necessary infrastructure investment to bring broadband within reach of every American.

Similarly, we urge the Commission to take care before imposing new regulations, such as so-called “net neutrality” rules, that would reduce network operators’ incentive to invest. By restricting service options, such regulations reduce the business appeal of additional network investment and innovation.

Bad enough that such regulations might discourage investment, but the trade off is even more undesirable because it is not clear what benefits net neutrality would produce for consumers. We are not aware of any instances of the abuses that net neutrality advocates say they want to prevent.

We agree that consumers should be able to get content from any legal Web site they want without interference from network operators; from all the evidence we’ve seen, consumers already have that freedom. Moreover, we have every reason to believe that the FCC and other government bodies have the authority to prevent such interference if it were to arise. New Internet regulation should be a last resort in response to a known problem, not a first reaction even before a problem arises.

Accordingly, we urge the Commission to stick with the “light touch” regulation that we believe has been a major factor for the Internet’s phenomenal success. If you have any questions or need further amplification, please feel free to call us at 202-238-0097. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Victor F. Capellan
President
Dominican American National Roundtable
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